

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: March 22, 2002

From: Diane C. Eidam

File No:
Reference Number 2.2c.(1)
Action

Ref: Los Angeles Eastside Transit Extension Project (Los Angeles County) – Future Consideration of Funding to Build a New Light Rail Line in East Los Angeles (Notice of Determination) (TCRP #36) Resolution E-02-26

Issue:

Should the Commission adopt the attached resolution to approve future consideration of funding to build a new light rail line in East Los Angeles from Union Station to Atlantic via First Street to Lorena in Los Angeles County?

Recommendation:

Commission staff recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-02-26. As a responsible agency, the Commission must approve this Resolution prior to allocating funds for capital purposes on the proposed light rail project.

Background:

This resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act has been completed:

- Los Angeles Eastside Corridor Light Rail Transit, Build Alternative Option B – New light rail line in East Los Angeles from Union Station to Atlantic Boulevard in East Los Angeles, via Alameda Street, First Street, Indiana Street, Third Street and Pomona Boulevard in Los Angeles County.

The project would provide a six-mile, nine-station project which will be an extension of the yet to be completed Pasadena Metro Gold Line formerly known as Pasadena Blue Line. The project extends from Union Station to Atlantic Boulevard in East Los Angeles, via Alameda Street, First Street, Indiana Street, Third Street and Pomona Boulevard.

The project will have a temporary significant effect on the environment during the construction period including air quality, noise, visual impacts, vibration, parking losses, traffic disruption and sidewalk closures. In addition, other longer-term significant effects on the environment include:

- Ten traffic intersections will be significantly impacted and cannot be fully mitigated.
- Catenary system on the 1st Street Bridge will add to visual overhead clutter, however no historical features will be adversely affected.
- Exterior noise levels and moderate sound impacts adjacent to special track work may occur, if mitigation measures are not sufficient to eliminate impact. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is committed to ensuring noise impacts are minimized.
- The project will require property acquisition and relocation of residents and business. There is the possibility that some residents and businesses may have to be relocated outside of the corridor.

The current estimate for the project is \$826,300,000, of which \$236,000,000 in funding will be provided through the Governor's Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), Project #36. The remaining \$590,300,000 will come from committed local, federal and other state funding sources. The Commission, at its November 1, 2000 meeting, approved the MTA's original application for Phase I (environmental, preliminary engineering and design development activities) for this project. The Commission, at its April 3-4, 2002 meeting, will consider the MTA's project application for Phases 2 and 3.

The MTA Board has approved the Final Supplemental EIS/EIR and has filed a Notice of Determination for this project. The Commission's approval and the resulting filing of the attached Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Resolution for Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding
Los Angeles Eastside Transit Extension Project
(Los Angeles County)**

Resolution E-02-26

1.1 WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has completed a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement(EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project:

- **Los Angeles Eastside Transit Extension Project**

1.2 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Supplemental EIS/EIR; and

1.3 WHEREAS, the project will have a significant effect on the environment in that ten intersections will be significantly impacted and cannot be fully mitigated; catenary system on the First Street Bridge will add to visual overhead clutter; exterior noise levels and moderate sound impacts adjacent to special track work may occur if mitigation measures are not sufficient to eliminate impact; and the project will require property acquisition and relocation of residents and businesses with the possibility that some residents and businesses may have to be relocated outside of the corridor.

2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above-referenced project for future consideration of funding.